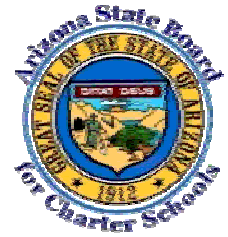


Arizona State Board for Charter Schools

Newsletter

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September 2001



Who is the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools?

We could make that a multiple choice or fill in the blank question, but with some of the recent changes in Board Members and Office Staff it would only be fair to provide you with the correct answer first.

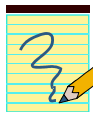
The Arizona State Board for Charter Schools Board Members

Dan Diethelm, President
Onnie Shekerjian, Vice President
Cassandra Larsen, Superintendent Designee
Bob Canchola
James Gibson
Cookie Goddard
Mary Lynn Kelly
Steve Twist

You'd be hard pressed to find bigger supporters of charter schools than the current staff at the State Board for Charter Schools. It is our hope that you'll use us as a resource.

Kristen Jordison, Executive Director
Monica Ulloa
Traci Sawyer
Mike Barragan
DeAnna Foulds

One goal of the staff is to be out and about visiting your sites this year. We look forward to observing classes, visiting with your students and staff, and seeing those things that make your school unique and successful. Schools that are in their fifth year of operation will be contacted early in the fall to schedule their Five Year Review/Visits.



Workshops in the Planning

In an effort to assist the schools sponsored by the State Board for Charter Schools with changes in legislation and accountability issues, this office will be conducting regional workshops. All charter operators would be strongly encouraged to come to each workshop. However, we understand that the concerns of veteran operators may not be the same as new operators and we would like to plan our workshops around your needs.

Please take a minute or two to email or fax our office with the following information.

1. School Name
2. Preferred workshop time (morning, evening weekend).
3. Issues or topics you'd like to have addressed.
4. Would you like to host the workshop? What would be the maximum occupancy?

Email your responses to
Foulds_DeAnna@pop.state.az.us
or fax us at 602-468-1682.

Our new website



...only a click away!

After much planning and preparation, we are pleased to announce the new website for the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools (www.asbcs.state.az.us). The website will provide an abundance of information as well as documents which are needed to update charter contracts such as amendments, notifications, site notifications, and USFRCS & Procurement requests. Also included are applications for new charters and transfer charters for existing schools sponsored by a school district or the State Board of Education. The website also includes a parent brochure with information relating to parental choice, concerns, and options.

What would make the website even better??? Since parents and the community will also be visiting our website, we would like to showcase pictures of the charter schools we sponsor, but in order to do this, we need your help. Please send your pictures via e-mail to Charter_School_Board@pop.state.az.us. The photos will show our schools in action and the services they offer to the community.

Classroom Site Fund (A.R.S. § 15-977)

Explanation and Update

As you are aware Arizona voters passed Proposition 301 in November 2000. One of the provisions of this proposition was the establishment of the Classroom Site Fund that increases funding to schools. This funding increase is to be used in the following three areas: 20% for teacher base salary increases, 40% for performance based teacher compensation increases, and 40% for one or more of six specified maintenance & operations expenditures (i.e., class size reduction, teacher compensation increases, AIMS intervention programs, teacher development, dropout prevention, and teacher liability insurance premiums).

The per pupil amount will be determined each year by the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) based on projected revenues into the fund. The per weighted pupil amount for FY 2001-2002 is \$272.42. To calculate your school's annual Classroom Site Fund revenue take your charter's student count (i.e., estimated, 40th or 100th day attending ADM) and multiply it by the appropriate weight (to obtain the appropriate weight please refer to the weighting scale on Budget Worksheet A, USFRCS Memorandum 37).

The monthly allotment will be 1/12th of this annual amount. Fluctuations in the monthly allotment will occur as it does with your state equalization assistance as you move from an estimated count to the 40th day ADM count to the 100th day ADM count. In addition, fluctuations may also occur due to the availability of cash in the fund. Any monthly deficit in the fund may be reallocated in another month if and when the fund has a surplus. If there is no surplus, each school will be shorted for the year.

Monthly revenues will be reflected on a worksheet generated and posted by ADE, School Finance. Each month a direct wire transfer of the Classroom Site Fund revenue will be posted to your account. This will be a separate transfer from your monthly equalization assistance and should be accounted for separately.

The first allocation for FY 2001-2002 Classroom Site Fund monies could occur the last week of August or the first week of September. This allocation will not be a full 1/12th payment as the fund will be short. Future allocations will be made on the 15th of each month, unless the 15th is a weekend or state holiday then the funds will be paid out the first working day following the 15th, with the final FY 2001-2002 payment occurring in July 2002. Also, please remember to submit a revised budget to School Finance by September 18th that includes page 3a for the Classroom Site Fund. See USFRCS Memorandum No. 38 for more information.

For more information on the Classroom Site Fund please refer to the following sources:

USFRCS Memorandums (www.auditorgen.state.az.us)

Implementing Proposition 301, USFRCS Memorandum No. 36

Impact of Attorney General Opinion & Revised Estimate, USFRCS Memorandum No. 38

Charter School Budget Forms & Budget Worksheets, USFRCS Memorandum No. 37

Attorney General's Opinions: (www.attorney_general.state.az.us/opinions)

Definition of Teacher for Classroom Site Fund, Opinion I01-014

Discretion Regarding Teacher Base Salary Increases from Classroom Site Fund, Opinion I01-017

Grant Opportunity for Eighth Grade Math and Science Teachers

The Foundation for Arizona's Future, founded by Matt Salmon, is offering opportunities for math and science teachers to apply for up to \$2500 in grant money. The application is asking for projects that will improve student knowledge, interest, experience, and measure achievement upon leaving eighth grade and entering high school. The straightforward application and details about the grant can be found at www.arizonasfuture.org or call Steve Chucri at 602-252-5155. The innovative programs that charter schools offer may be just what the foundation is looking for. Share this information with your math and science teachers. The deadline is November 2, 2001.

Reminders



As a public school you may not charge tuition or fees for classes and/or supplies that are part of your required instructional program. You may charge a book deposit for textbooks, but a waiver must be available for those who cannot meet the financial obligation. You may not charge for consumable instructional materials such as workbooks, magazines, paperbacks, etc.



As a public school you must accept students with special needs. It is not a matter of being staffed, equipped, or prepared to do so. Contact your Special Ed Consultant if you have questions. Our office can give you the name of your assigned consultant if you do not have that information readily available.



Donations are just that and must be voluntary. To avoid any miscommunication, it is suggested that you make this clear on all solicitations for donations. A.R.S. §43-1087.01 was amended to increase the extra curricular activities fee tax credit from \$200 to \$250 for married couples filing a joint tax return.



You need to have fingerprint reports on file for all non-certified staff. Also, you must have resumes of all teachers available to be viewed by the public.



Any time a written complaint about a particular school is received by this office the school is notified by fax or mail. The school has ten days to respond, in writing, to the complaint. After 10 days the complaint is placed into the school's public file, with or without the school's response. The Arizona State Board for Charter Schools will become involved in complaints that concern safety issues and contractual violations.



In addition to the Classroom Site Fund, Prop. 301 increased the mandatory days in session from 175 to 176 in FY 2001-02. In addition, the required number of hours has increased for each grade level as follows: Kindergarten – 348 hours, Grades 1, 2, and 3 – 696 hours, Grades 4, 5, and 6 – 870 hours, Grades 7 and 8 -1044 hours, Grades 9, 10, and 11 – 880 hours, and Grade 12 – 488 hours.

Upcoming Deadline

Please remember a list of your registered students must be sent to School Finance by September 7th to be eligible for an October payment. For more information please go to www.ade.az.gov/schoolfinance/Memos. Details can be found in Memorandum 02-005.

Thank you Thank you **Thank you** Thank you Thank you

The members and the staff of the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools wish to thank Cassandra Larsen for all her hard work and dedication as Executive Director for the past three years. Cassandra has been a great support to all charter schools, as well as a tremendous mentor to all her staff. Although we will miss Cassandra in her role as Executive Director we welcome her to the board as the Superintendent's designee. We wish Cassandra well in her new position as Chief of Staff for Jaime Molera, State Superintendent of Public Instruction.